6. *Facility to ED employees Attending All India conference of the unions as delegates.*—It has been decided that the cost of substitute employed in place of an ED employee who is elected as delegate to attend the All India Conferences of the Unions representing ED Employees will be borne by the Department. This will be subject to the condition that the cost of substitute will be limited to 2 ED delegates from each circle.

Upgradation of Branch Office into Extra Departmental Sub-office

1604. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade the Branch Office into Extra Departmental Sub Office where the workload of Branch Office exceeds 80 points;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner Government would compensate the Branch Post Master for performing duty beyond 80 points in a month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The upgrading of an extra-departmental branch office (EDBO) as an extra-departmental sub office (EDSO) is governed by a separate standard which prescribes a minimum workload of 4 hours for the EDBO proposed to be upgraded. The workload is computed as per Marathe Time Test which is quite different from the 'points' system adopted for remuneration of branch postmasters.

(c) In such cases upgrading of the EDBO either as an EDSO or a departmental sub office (DSO) is considered subject to standards fixed for the respective category of offices being fulfilled. If not feasible, opening of another branch office in the area, subject to fulfilment of norms, can also be considered.

Recruitment of E. D. Employees

1605. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Extra Departmental employees category-wise recruited during the last three years ending the 30th June, 1989; and

(b) what is the number of pensioners and school teachers, working as Extra Departmental employees as on 30th June 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meetings with the Bhartiya Postal Employees Federation

1606. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether periodical meetings at All India level are being held with the Bhartiya Postal Employees Federation; and